

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



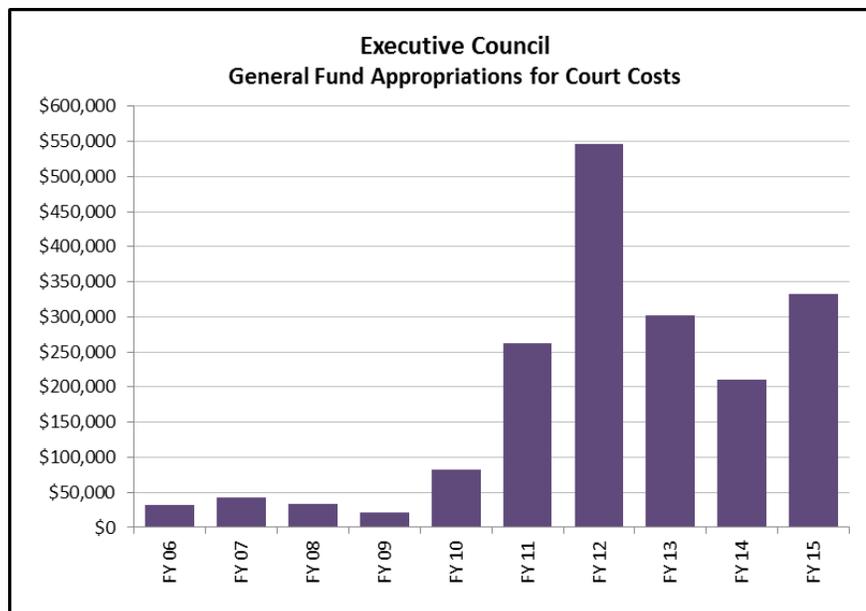
Court Costs

Iowa Code section [7D.10](#) provides that if sufficient funds for court costs have not been appropriated to a department, or if other nonappropriated funds are not available for such purposes within the budget of a department, the Executive Council may authorize payment from a General Fund standing unlimited appropriation. These costs relate to any legal proceeding brought by or against any state agency where the state is a party or has involvement.

The funds used from this appropriation are generally for legal fees and expert witness fees. The legal fees are paid to law firms that represent the state in cases where the Attorney General is disqualified from participating. These provisions are governed by Iowa Code section [13.3](#) that specifies if the Attorney General is disqualified from appearing in any legal proceeding, the Executive Council is authorized to appoint a qualified replacement. This section also stipulates that funds are to be appropriated from the General Fund to pay reasonable expenses for the person appointed by the Council. Iowa Code section [13.3](#) further requires that if the Governor or a department is represented by an attorney other than the Attorney General in a court proceeding, the court is required to review the fees charged to the state to determine if they are fair and reasonable. Additionally, the Executive Council is prohibited from authorizing reimbursement of attorney fees in excess of those determined by the court to be fair and reasonable.

Funding

Appropriations for court costs approved by the Executive Council will vary from year to year. Since FY 2006, the amount expended from this appropriation has ranged from a low of \$21,000 in FY 2009 to a high of \$546,000 in FY 2012. The average appropriation over the last 10 years has been approximately \$186,000.



Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [7D.10](#)

Iowa Code section [13.3](#)

More Information

Executive Council: <https://governor.iowa.gov/newsroom/executive-council-of-iowa>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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